

1     CLAIMS:

2     Having thus described our invention, what we claim as  
3     new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as  
4     follows:

5     1.   In a system having a client computer, and apparatus  
6     for connecting said client computer to a network having  
7     a server for backing up said client computer, a method  
8     for transferring data from said client computer to said  
9     server, comprising:

10         connecting said client computer to said network;  
11         backing up data on said client computer to a  
12         storage device attached to said network when said  
13         client computer is connected to said network; and  
14         transferring the data from said storage device to  
15         said server.

16     2.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said  
17     transferring of said data from said storage device to  
18     said server occurs at a time determined by said server.

19     3.   A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said  
20     connecting comprises connecting said client computer to  
21     a docking station connected to said network.

22     4.   A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the storage  
23     device is associated with said docking station.

1       5. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
2             connecting said client computer to said network a  
3 plurality of times before said server backs up said  
4 data on said client computer, and  
5             creating a new data set on said storage device for  
6 transfer to said server each time said client computer  
7 is connected to said network.

8       6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein said data  
9 sets are transferred to said server in the order in  
10 which said data sets were created.

11       7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said  
12 connecting comprises establishing a data transfer link  
13 between said client computer and said data storage  
14 device.

15       8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said data  
16 transfer link comprises one of a wireless link and an  
17 infrared link.

18       9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said  
19 client computer is off when connected to said network,  
20 the method further comprises:

21             powering up a storage device in said client  
22 computer; and

23             transferring data stored on said storage device in  
24 said client computer to said storage device attached to  
25 said network.

1 10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein if power  
2 to said client computer is turned on during transfer of  
3 data stored on said storage device in said client  
4 computer to said storage device attached to said  
5 network, said transfer of data is suspended while said  
6 client computer boots up.

7 11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said  
8 client computer is initially on when connected to said  
9 network, but said client computer is turned off, the  
10 method further comprises suspending transferring data  
11 stored on a storage device in said client computer to  
12 said storage device attached to said network, to  
13 permitting normal backup of files on said client  
14 computer.

15 12. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein if said  
16 client computer is disconnected from said network  
17 during a first backing up of data on said client  
18 computer to a storage device attached to said network,  
19 and said client computer is again connected to said  
20 network, the method further comprises backing up said  
21 client computer to said storage device on said network  
22 a second time, and transferring sequentially to said  
23 server data transferred to said storage device before  
24 said client was disconnected from said network, and  
25 then data transferred to said storage device during  
26 said second time.

1 13. A system for backing up data on a client computer  
2 to a server on a network, said system comprising:

3 connection apparatus for connecting said client  
4 computer to said network; and

5 a storage device connected to said network for  
6 backing up data from said client computer when said  
7 client computer is connected to said network, said  
8 storage device being configured to transfer said data  
9 to said server at a time determined by said server.

10 14. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein said  
11 connection apparatus is a docking station for said  
12 client computer.

13 15. A system as recited in claim 14, wherein said  
14 storage device is associated with said docking station.

15 16. A system as recited in claim 13, further  
16 comprising an interface between said connection  
17 apparatus and said storage device, said interface  
18 having a processor to facilitate transfer of data.

19 17. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein said  
20 client computer may be connected to said network  
21 multiple times before data is transferred to said  
22 server, said system further comprising:

23 means for creating a new data set on said storage  
24 device for transfer to said server each time said  
25 client computer is connected to said network.

1 18. A system as recited in claim 17, further  
2 comprising means for transferring said data sets to  
3 said server in the order in which said data set were  
4 created.

5 19. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein said  
6 connection apparatus comprises a data transfer link  
7 between said client computer and said data storage  
8 device.

9 20. A system as recited in claim 19, wherein said data  
10 transfer link comprises one of a wireless link and an  
11 infrared link.

12 21. A system as recited in claim 13, further  
13 comprising means for powering up a storage device in  
14 said client computer if said client computer is off  
15 when connected to said network.

16  
17 22. A system as recited in claim 21, further  
18 comprising means for suspending transfer of data that  
19 is stored on said storage device in said client  
20 computer to said storage device attached to said  
21 network, while said client computer boots up, if power  
22 to said client computer is turned on during the  
23 transfer of data stored on said storage device in said  
24 client computer to said storage device attached to said  
25 network.

1 23. A system as recited in claim 13, further  
2 comprising means for suspending normal backup of files  
3 on said client computer while transferring data stored  
4 on a storage device in said client computer to said  
5 storage device attached to said network if said client  
6 computer is initially on when connected to said  
7 network, but said client computer is turned off.

8 24. A system as recited in claim 13, wherein if said  
9 client computer is disconnected from said network  
10 during a first backing up of data on said client  
11 computer to a storage device attached to said network,  
12 and said client computer is again connected to said  
13 network, the system further comprises means for backing  
14 up said client computer to said storage device on said  
15 network a second time, and means for transferring  
16 sequentially to said server data transferred to said  
17 storage device before said client was disconnected from  
18 said network, and then data transferred to said storage  
19 device during said second time.

20 25. A computer program product comprising a computer  
21 usable medium having computer readable program code  
22 means embodied thereon, the computer readable program  
23 code means being for use in a system having a client  
24 computer, and apparatus for connecting said client  
25 computer to a network having a server for backing up  
26 said client computer, the computer readable program  
27 code means being for causing a computer to effect a

1 method for transferring data from said client computer  
2 to said server, the method comprising:

3 connecting said client computer to said network;  
4 backing up data on said client computer to a  
5 storage device attached to said network when said  
6 client computer is connected to said network; and  
7 transferring the data from said storage device to  
8 said server.

9 26. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,  
10 wherein in the method, said transferring of said data  
11 from said storage device to said server occurs at a  
12 time determined by said server.

13 27. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,  
14 wherein in the method, said connecting comprises  
15 connecting said client computer to a docking station  
16 connected to said network.

17 28. A computer program product as recited in claim 27,  
18 wherein in the method, the storage device is associated  
19 with said docking station.

20 29. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,  
21 wherein the method further comprises:

22 connecting said client computer to said network a  
23 plurality of times before said server backs up said  
24 data on said client computer, and

1           creating a new data set on said storage device for  
2 transfer to said server each time said client computer  
3 is connected to said network.

4       30. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,  
5 wherein in the method, said data sets are transferred  
6 to said server in the order in which said data set were  
7 created.

8       31. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,  
9 wherein in the method, said connecting comprises  
10 establishing a data transfer link between said client  
11 computer and said data storage device.

12       32. A computer program product as recited in claim 31,  
13 wherein in the method, said data transfer link  
14 comprises one of a wireless link and an infrared link.

15       33. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,  
16 wherein if said client computer is off when connected  
17 to said network, the method further comprises:

18           powering up a storage device in said client  
19 computer; and

20           transferring data stored on said storage device in  
21 said client computer to said storage device attached to  
22 said network.

23       34. A computer program product as recited in claim 33,  
24 further comprising computer readable code means so that  
25 in the method, if power to said client computer is



1 turned on during transfer of data stored on said  
2 storage device in said client computer to said storage  
3 device attached to said network, said transfer of data  
4 is suspended while said client computer boots up.

5 35. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,  
6 further comprising computer readable code means so that  
7 in the method, if said client computer is initially on  
8 when connected to said network, but said client  
9 computer is turned off, the method further comprising  
10 suspending normal backup of files on said client  
11 computer while transferring data stored on a storage  
12 device in said client computer to said storage device  
13 attached to said network.

14 36. A computer program product as recited in claim 25,  
15 further comprising computer readable code means so that  
16 in the method, if said client computer is disconnected  
17 from said network during a first backing up of data on  
18 said client computer to a storage device attached to  
19 said network, and said client computer is again  
20 connected to said network, the method further comprises  
21 backing up said client computer to said storage device  
22 on said network a second time, and transferring  
23 sequentially to said server data transferred to said  
24 storage device before said client was disconnected from  
25 said network, and then data transferred to said storage  
26 device during said second time.